

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
District of Oregon**

PRESS ROOM



06/08/2006

Master of Turkish Commercial Vessel Arrested for Intoxication

PORTLAND, OREGON – MERIH DORBEK, age 53, a citizen of Turkey, and the Master of the H. HASSAN YARDIM, a Turkish bulk carrier ship, made his first appearance in federal court on June 5, 2006, in Portland, Oregon on a charge of operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol, in violation of Title 46, United States Code, Section 2302 (c). The statute, a Class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by imprisonment for up to one year and/or a fine up to \$100,000, prohibits the operation of a vessel while under the influence of alcohol. DORBEK was released on his personal recognizance. His next court appearance is set for June 19, 2006.

At approximately 11:05 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2006, Coast Guard Group Astoria, Oregon, received a call from a 911 dispatcher in Astoria reporting that a crewmember from the bulk carrier ship H. HASSAN YARDIM claimed the master was intoxicated.

Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Washington launched a 25-foot response boat with a boarding team to investigate. The boarding team administered a breathalyzer test to the master. Upon failing the test, the master was taken into custody by the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service.

Federal regulations provide that a person operating a commercial vessel on U.S. waters is considered legally intoxicated if his blood alcohol concentration level exceeds .04.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service and prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Claire M. Fay, at 503-727-1000. For more information, contact Public Information Officer Diane Peterson at (503) 727-1066.